

## **SAFEGUARDING THE DREAM**

*Every footballer dreams of playing the game at the highest level. Some youngsters even dream of playing football professionally at some top level club. However, these wishes need to be kept within their perspective. Youngsters have to understand that, although it is commendable to aim high, it is important to be realistic. The dream has to center on playing football at any level and appreciate how fortunate it is to be doing so. The benefits of football are far reaching, maintains health and builds characters assisting us in our profession off the field of play. Football creates friendships which last forever.*

*That is why we now need to guard the dream from the savage onset of match-fixing. This is creating a very negative image to the game we love so much. This is turning people away from the game which is unquestionably the top sporting discipline of all time.*

*The way football has financially developed over this last quarter of a century is surreal. The greed for power by some clubs and the injection of enormous amounts of cash by people who were never part of the football family, is cause for concern. Football is now solely associated with financial power. The sporting aspect is playing second fiddle resulting in criminals manipulating our game and scoring high financial successes in the process. We have had other occasions to explain the dangers associated with the criminality which is circling the football world. Our responsibility is to guard our children from the pitfalls and show each and every football practioner the perils linked with this negative side of football.*

*Parents are now, more than ever before, in the most vital position to safeguard their children from this damning situation. They devote their lives in educating their children and assisting them in their extra curricular activities and this is what they need to be aware of now. Match-fixing is a scourge and plague on the same level as drugs. If a player is tempted in fixing a match on just one occasion, he is hooked for life. If he decides to pull away from the scene, he will face serious consequences and repercussions. Parents need to be shown and also understand the real picture surrounding football and ensure that their children keep away from this dangerous practice.*

*Admttedly, discussing the suspicions about the majority of football matches, has become a national topic. This is ruining football's image, but it is happening on a large scale that does not reflect well on the performers. Suspicions are raised about everyone connected to the game, which also includes footballers' parents.*

*Is this the dream that we always yearned for? Are we helping to stave off vicious attacks on our dream? Unless we are united in this crusade, we will be witnessing the slow but sure destruction of football. It is our duty to turn our children's dream turn into reality, and keeping it alive.*

*I wish you a Wonderful 2013. ft*